



Handwritten initials: DAE, MW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Visco et al.

Attorney Docket No.: PLUSP040

Application No.: 10/824,944

Examiner: Tracy Mae Dove

Filed: April 14, 2004

Group: 1745

**Title: PROTECTED ACTIVE METAL
ELECTRODE AND BATTERY CELL
STRUCTURES WITH NON-AQUEOUS
INTERLAYER ARCHITECTURE**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail on January 25, 2006 in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signed:

[Signature]
Tara Hayden

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.102 (c)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The applicant hereby petitions, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.102 (c), that the subject patent application be accorded "special" status and be advanced to an early examination based upon material of contribution of the subject invention to enhancement of the environment and conservation of energy resources.

It is widely known that lithium metal reacts violently with water, and even more violently with aqueous acidic solutions. Aqueous battery systems have been attempted previously using unprotected lithium metal electrodes. However, due to the rapid corrosion of unprotected lithium metal electrodes in water, batteries formed using such electrodes would have very short life, and have limited commercial appeal due to safety problems. However, it has been found that a cell composed of a lithium electrode protected in accordance with the present invention can be immersed into acidic aqueous electrolytes without incident. The thermodynamic open circuit potential is observed relative to a normal hydrogen electrode and lithium can be discharged.

FEB 14 2006

PETITION GRANTED

[Signature]
**William Krynski,
Special Program Examiner
Technology Center 1700**